

VA Child Day Care Council

**VA Dept. of Social Services
7 N. 8th Street
Richmond, VA 23219**

May 14, 2009

Members Present

Gail Johnson, Jack Knapp, Novella Ruffin, Rosemary Burton, Irene Carney, Letitia Clark, Mary Cole, Margaret Collins, Tracy Cox, Elizabeth Dowdy, Charles Finley, Susan Hackney, Kimberly Hulcher, Linda Janulis, Emory Rodgers, Nancy Smith, Rose Ann Smythe, Kristi Snyder, Dona Huang, and Ellen Nau.

Absent

Kathy Glazer, Bethany Geldmaker, William Harvey, Denise Pearsall, Lisa Shelburne, and Diane Smalley.

Call to Order

The Council meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Vice Chair Jack Knapp

Welcome & Introductions

Reverend Knapp provided the welcome and introductions. (Gavel passed to Gail Johnson upon her arrival.)

Approval of Agenda

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Knapp) and seconded (Ms. Smith) moved to approve the agenda as presented with the caveat that action items will be voted upon when there is a quorum. Motion carried with all in favor.

Information Items

Regulatory Update

Richard Martin, Manager of the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs provided members with a regulatory update. A copy of this report is attached to the Council meeting file.

Council Membership Update

Mr. Martin provided copies of the updated membership roster. The Council continues to have vacant positions and positions that have not been reappointed. Legal counsel advises that members will remain active until notified otherwise by the Office of the Governor/Secretary of the Commonwealth.

Infant Toddler Network

Sheri Osborne, Training Director, Louise Canfield, VA ITSN Statewide Coordinator and Lise Kline were on hand to provide an update on the Infant Toddler Network. The goals

of the Network are to improve the quality of care and education that infants and toddlers receive while away from their primary caregiver; increase the educational level and competencies of infant and toddler caregivers/teachers and directors; promote community connections to increase awareness and use of available resources and services that support healthy, safe, and nurturing care for infants and toddlers; and implant an effective, efficient, and accountable infant and toddler specialist system and increase its capacity to offer services. Funding is provided by VA Department of Social Services through 2012.

Appoint Nominating Committee

Ms. Johnson appointed Linda Janulis as chair with members Nancy Smith, Emory Rodgers, and Rose Ann Smythe. They will provide a proposed slate of officers today.

Open/Closed Facility Report

Leslie Knachel provided members with a handout on open/closed facility statistics. It appears that the new standards were not a prohibitive factor in facility closings. A copy of this report is included in the Council meeting packet with the Minutes.

Ms. Knachel advised that the latest up-to-date information for providers is located on the website with a hyperlink. She confirmed Council email addresses will be added to the Provider interested parties list.

Ms. Johnson shared her concerns that navigation of the website is not user friendly and suggested to list “notice to providers” and “regulation” in the search field. This information will be shared with Public Affairs.

Ms. Hulcher asked if a “heads up” memo could be sent to providers alerting them that information was forthcoming. Ms. Knachel will research and consider this request.

Action Items

Minutes

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Ms. Snyder) and seconded (Ms. Smith) moved to approve the March 10, 2009 Minutes as submitted. Motion carried with all in favor.

Future Meeting Schedule

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Finley) and seconded (Ms. Cole) moved to approve the future meeting schedule with one change. The meeting will be on November 9 due to Veteran’s Day holiday.

Members were encouraged to hold the 2nd Thursday of every month open on their calendars should there be a need to hold a meeting.

22 VAC 15-31 Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

This planned regulatory action is a joint action to repeal the existing regulation,

22 VAC 15-30, and establish a new regulation, 22 VAC 15-31, for licensed child day centers. The goals of this regulation are to protect children under the age of 13, who are separated from their parents during part of the day to receive out of home care in a child day center, but ensuring that the activities, services, and facilities are conducive to the well-being of children and to reduce risks in the environment of the centers. The intention of the proposed action to adopt a new regulation is to improve clarity and consistency, relieve intrusive and burdensome language, and provide greater protection for children in care.

Repeal of the existing regulation and adoption of a new regulation is the most efficient and effective way to make the necessary changes to achieve clarity, consistency, and to protect children. The existing regulation has been amended and revised in its current format and structure since 1993. Repeal of the existing regulation and adoption of a new regulation will allow greater flexibility to adjust the structure, format and language. This flexibility will allow for clarified language to improve understanding and interpretation leading to enhanced compliance and enforcement. In making the determination to repeal the existing regulation and adopt a new regulation, the Council reviewed the existing regulation, reports from contacts with licensed child day centers, and on-line licensing inspection reports from the Division of Licensing Programs.

Areas of concern in the new regulation include program director qualifications; clarification of staff training requirements including the acceptance of Medication Administration Training toward annual training requirements; playground surfacing requirements to bring centers into compliance with national safety standards; and updates to address ever-changing national health practices.

Mr. Martin confirmed this does not limit Council to these areas only, because they are writing a new regulation from beginning to end.

ON MOTION DULY MADE (Mr. Finley) and seconded (Ms. Snyder) moved that the Child Day-Care Council approve the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to repeal the existing regulation 22 VAC 15-30, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, and to promulgate a new regulation 22 VAC 15-31, Standards for Licensed Child Day Centers, for publication in the Virginia Register Subject to approval under the provisions of Executive Order Number 36 (2006). Roll call vote taken by Secretary Ruffin- motion carried with all in favor.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee

The Committee suggested, and the Council approved Kimberly Hulcher as Vice Chair and Letitia Clark as Secretary to serve a term of one year, effective July 1, 2009.

RAP Group #2

Kristi Snyder, Chair advised the feedback and dialogue had been very productive, noting that discussions were inclusive of comments from outside the group. The next meeting will be today beginning at 2 PM. Department staff were thanked for their hard work.

RAP Group #4

Susan Hackney, Chair echoed Ms. Snyder's comments. She advised this group will meet on June 4.

RAP Group #3 will have their first meeting on June 9.

Ms. Knachel advised the conference call meetings are working well. The group is able to receive input without any member traveling more than an hour to a hosting site.

Public Comment

None

Other Business

Dr. Ruffin suggested that the Council Secretary duties be expanded, and requested Council to consider having positions serve a two-year term. Council agreed this would require a bylaw change.

Ms. Hulcher felt the Council should be informed of the market rate, because the more you know, the better you do.

Chair's Report

Ms. Johnson shared an article from Southern Early Childhood rating Virginia #1 in chances for success with children.

Ms. Johnson spoke on the Council's role regarding subsidy and thanked Ms. Hackney for her assistance in handling correspondence concerning this issue.

She reflected over her work on Council during the last nine years and commented she was proud to be a part of the collaboration that is moving early childhood education forward. She is looking forward to great things as the Council moves forward. Although her term as Chair and member of the Council expires in June, Mr. Martin advised she will continue serving until advised otherwise by the Governor/Secretary of the Commonwealth. Council voiced their appreciation of Ms. Johnson's leadership.

Council Check In

Ms. Cox advised she is expecting her first child in November.

Ms. Johnson is expecting her 8th grandchild very soon.

Ms. Nau offered the Department of Aging conference room for future Council meetings, in light of the VDSS upcoming move.

Ms. Huang advised she was now employed with the Department of Health and shared information on childhood lead poisoning. Handouts were provided to members. This information is also on the USEPA.gov/lead website.

Future Agenda Item

Child Care Development Update

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Council meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rengnerth

May 14, 2009